

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for authoring, distributing, and replaying derivative hypermedia content comprises an authoring system for recording dynamic annotations and a distribution system for distributing the recorded dynamic annotations. The present system includes a playing system for playing the dynamic annotations which have been distributed. The system is applicable to the Internet or World-Wide Web (WWW) and/or to Intranet use.

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 32 were pending in the application.

Claims 1 – 32 were rejected in the outstanding Office Action.

Claims 1, 10, 17, and 22 are amended by the present Response.

Independent claim 33 is being newly added by the present Response.

Dependent claims 34, and 35 are being newly added by the present Response.

Please amend the application as follows and consider the accompanying Remarks.

Where appropriate, amendments to the application are shown as amended in a 'clean' version in the present response, accompanied by a 'marked-up' copy on a separate sheet appended hereto.

Objection was made to the form of the Abstract. A rewritten Abstract is being submitted herewith for consideration as provided above and is believed to meet the grounds of objection. Please replace the Abstract on file with the following Abstract. A marked-up copy showing the changes is appended hereto on a separate sheet.

The Examiner, having detected an error in Applicant's claim numbering, has renumbered the claims appropriately. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the helpful renumbering and has adopted the new numbering in the present response.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as having insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the annotation ID". Claim 22 as now amended is believed to overcome this rejection.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Claims 1 – 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hou et al.

The rejection is respectfully traversed, at least with regard to the claims as now amended, for the following reasons.

A distinguishing and significant feature of applicant's invention is the incorporation of multiple documents within the same annotation. In the prior art, for example in Hou et al. , of record, an annotation is typically something that is added to a single document. A feature of applicant's invention is to enable annotation to be used as a way to author new, derivative content which spans across many documents. For example, using applicant's invention, one can produce a single tour across 10 different web-sites, by different authors and at different sites, which all discuss a common topic. This aspect of applicant's invention represents a major conceptual break from previous annotation work, and one which is of practical value in many applications such as advertising and research.

Hou et al. does not recognize such an application, nor teach how to do it. Furthermore, in addition to this fundamental conceptual difference, there are technical hurdles which effectively prevent Hou et al's disclosed approach from permitting annotation across multiple documents.

These obstacles are clearly recognized and distinguished by the inventors in the present application, which states in pertinent part (page 8, line 25 to page 9, line 16):

As described in the afore-mentioned U.S. Patent No. 5,838,313 (Hou et al.), annotations are played by processing each event that has been stored, in turn, while maintaining the timing as much as possible. * * *

A difficulty posed by multiple-document annotation, as opposed to single document annotation, is that the time required to load and render a new document is not consistent from recording to playback, or even from one playback to another. This is particularly true with WWW documents, for which the loading time can vary substantially. At playback time, this can cause the recorded audio and events, which are on an absolute timeline, to become unsynchronized with the associated document. In the present invention, this problem is solved by pausing both the recording and playback of annotations during the loading and rendering of new documents. * * * Further, the timestamps of all events are stored and interpreted relative to the completion of the loading of the most recent document. In this way, arbitrary loading times can be tolerated with no loss of synchronization.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite features that distinguish over Hou et al. Claims 2 – 4 incorporate the limitations of claim 1 and are therefore not anticipated by Hou et al. for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Hou et al. does not disclose applicant's claimed features, at least in the claims as now amended, and therefore cannot anticipate. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing arguments and the amendments to the the claims is respectfully requested and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited.

Claims 5 – 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hou et al. in view of van Hoff et al., of record.

This rejection is respectfully traversed, at least with regard to the claims as now amended, for the following reasons.

The arguments set forth above are repeated with regard to the present rejection, with regard to all of the claims, at least as now amended. The underlying basis in Hou et al. upon which van Hoff was applied is mooted by the present amendments where, for example, claim 1, whose limitations are incorporated in claims 5 – 9, now recites in pertinent part features neither disclosed nor suggested by Hou et al.:

* * * an authoring system for *recording a given dynamic annotation on any of a plurality of hypermedia documents*;
a distribution system for distributing said dynamic annotations which have been recorded in the previous step; and
a playing system for playing said dynamic annotations which have been distributed in the previous step, *said playing system enabling loading of multiple ones of said hypermedia documents upon which said annotation was made while maintaining synchronized playback of said annotation.* (Emphasis added.)

At least with respect to the claims as now amended, there is no motivation for a worker in the field to turn to van Hoff in that Hou et al. is itself deficient to suggest the present invention.

Assuming, *arguendo*, that van Hoff is nevertheless applied, it is noted that van Hoff discloses cross-referencing of documents and storing the cross-references independently of those documents on what he calls an “annotation server”. Creating a stored cross-reference between two documents is quite different from creating an automated guided tour across many documents. Since van Hoff does not teach the idea of authoring derivative content, he certainly does not teach authoring derivative content across multiple documents. Further, van Hoff’s work neither discloses nor suggests anything which would remedy the missing features in Hou et al. including, for example, the technical problem of synchronizing playback under varying loading times.

Accordingly, the foregoing shows that the present invention, as recited in claims 5 – 9, at least as now amended, is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited documents, taken

either singly or in combination, is not rendered obvious by them, and is patentable thereover.

The foregoing reasoning applies with only insubstantial variations to independent claims 10, 17, and 33, at least as now amended, which are likewise believed patentable over the cited documents. Thus claim 33 recites in pertinent part

33. (Newly submitted) A method for authoring, distributing, and replaying derivative hypermedia content, said method comprising the steps of:

recording a given dynamic annotation *on any of a plurality of hypermedia documents*;

distributing said dynamic annotations which have been recorded in the previous step; and

playing said dynamic annotations which have been distributed in the previous step, said playing system *enabling loading of multiple ones of said hypermedia documents* upon which said annotation was made *while maintaining synchronized playback* of said annotation. (Emphasis added.)

The dependent claims dependent from claims 10 and 17 respectively, incorporate the limitations of their respective base claims and are therefore believed to be patentable over the cited documents for at least the same reasons as set forth above. This is likewise applicable to newly added dependent claims 34 and 35.

In that it is believed that the claims, at least as now amended, are believed to be patentable over the citations of record, reconsideration in view of the foregoing arguments and the amendments to the the claims is respectfully requested and withdrawal of the rejection is solicited, with passage of the application to issue in due course.

Respectfully submitted,



Adel A. Ahmed
Reg. No. 29,606

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SIEMENS CORPORATION
Intellectual Property Department
186 Wood Ave S
Iselin, NJ 08830
Tel: 732-321-3013
Fax: 732-321-3030

**Marked copy of amended claims showing changes made:
inserted material is underlined and deletions are crossed out**

1. (Amended) A system for authoring, distributing, and replaying derivative hypermedia content, said system comprising:

_____ an authoring system for recording a given dynamic annotations; annotation on any of a plurality of hypermedia documents;

_____ a distribution system for distributing said dynamic annotations which have been recorded in the ~~preceding~~previous step; and

_____ a playing system for playing said dynamic annotations which have been distributed in the ~~preceding~~previous step-, said playing system enabling loading of multiple ones of said hypermedia documents upon which said annotation was made while maintaining synchronized playback of said annotation.

10. (Amended) A system, for use with a communications web or net, said net optionally comprising at least one of the Internet and an Intranet, said system being for authoring, distributing, and replaying derivative hypermedia content, said system comprising:

an annotation server for being coupled to said communications ~~net;~~web;

a remote net server for being coupled to said communications web; ~~and~~

a net browser for being coupled to said communications web;

an authoring system for recording a given dynamic annotation on any of a plurality of hypermedia documents;

_____ a distribution system for distributing said dynamic annotations which have been recorded in the previous step; and

_____ a playing system for playing said dynamic annotations which have been distributed in the previous step, said playing system enabling loading of multiple ones of said hypermedia documents upon which said annotation was made while maintaining synchronized playback of said annotation.

17. (Amended) A method for use with a communications web or net for authoring, distributing, and replaying derivative hypermedia content, said net optionally comprising at least one of the Internet and an Intranet, said method ~~being for authoring, distributing, and replaying derivative hypermedia content, wherein said method comprises:~~comprising the steps of:

_____ recording a given dynamic annotation on any of a plurality of hypermedia documents;

_____ distributing said dynamic annotations which have been recorded in the previous step;

_____ playing said dynamic annotations which have been distributed in the previous step, said playing system enabling loading of multiple ones of said hypermedia documents upon which said annotation was made while maintaining synchronized playback of said annotation;

coupling each of at least one remote server, an annotation server, an annotation manager, and a net browser to said communications net; and

selecting one of a Browse mode, an Annotate mode, and a Watch mode for respectively causing said net browser to function in a traditional hypermedia browser manner, causing events generated by a user to be recorded, and for causing a most recent annotation to be displayed.

21.—22. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 17, comprising the step of, upon selection of an icon or text representing an annotation: and having an annotation ID:
generating a link annotation event using ~~the~~said annotation ID of said item selected.

Claims 33, 34, and 35 are newly submitted.

Marked copy of Abstract showing changes made:

inserted material is underlined and deletions are crossed out

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system for authoring, distributing, and replaying derivative hypermedia content comprises an authoring system for recording dynamic annotations; and a distribution system for distributing the recorded dynamic annotations ~~which have been recorded in the preceding step; and a~~. The present system includes a playing system for playing the dynamic annotations which have been distributed ~~in the preceding step.~~ The system is applicable to the Internet or World-Wide Web (WWW) and/or to Intranet use.